

WILLIAM
(TROY)

DRAWER 11A

TOWNS-LINCOLN INTEREST

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Indiana

Cities & Towns

Troy

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

FIFTY YEARS AGO.

Abraham Lincoln Paid a Visit to Troy.

Was Greeted by a Great Crowd at the Union Depot—Made a Brief Address —Fire on River Street—Inauguration of Jefferson Davis.

Abraham Lincoln was in Troy fifty years ago to-day and the occasion of his visit was the cause for a notable demonstration. A local paper of the time gave the following interesting account of the event:

"Tuesday morning, February 19, was quite an interesting one in Troy. Its events furnished a topic for conversation—almost the only one—during the entire day. The President-elect was in town for twenty minutes. 'Did you see him?' was the question asked by everybody. If answered affirmatively you were next asked if you heard him, and what he said. For, with the exception of sundry reporters who stood near the presidential elbow, the deponents that could report Mr. Lincoln's remarks were few and far between.

Big Crowd at the Depot.

"It is estimated that a crowd of about 10,000 gathered at the depot to await the arrival of Mr. Lincoln's train. It came up from Albany in charge of Robert Morris, and was drawn by the locomotive 'L. H. Tupper,' which was finely decorated. It left Albany at 8 o'clock.

"The arrival in our depot was the signal for enthusiastic applause from the multitude, who were awaiting the coming of the distinguished visitor. The

Troy Citizens' Corps and the police preserved excellent order, but the noise of the crowd and of the locomotives prevented the remarks from being heard at any great distance from the speakers.

The Welcome and Response.

"Mayor McConihe made an appropriate address of welcome, saying in part:

"Mr. Lincoln—In behalf of the citizens of Troy, who are assembled here in such large numbers, and whom I have the honor to represent, I bid you a cordial welcome. We greet you, not as a politician or a partisan, nor as the representative of any particular platform or dogma, but as the President-elect of 30,000,000 of free and enlightened people. Aware as I am of the fatigue and anxiety which must weigh upon you, we expect from you no lengthy exposition of your policy or purpose. Fellow citizens, I have the pleasure to present to you, Hon. Abraham Lincoln, President-elect of the United States.'

"To this address Mr. Lincoln made the following response:

"Mr. Mayor and Fellow Citizens of Troy, N. Y.: I am here to thank you for this noble demonstration of the citizens of Troy, and I accept this flattering reception with feelings of profound gratefulness. Since having left home, I confess, sir, having seen large assemblies of people, but this immense gathering exceeds anything that I have seen before. Still, fellow citizens, I am not vain enough to suppose that you have gathered to do me honor as an individual, but rather as the representative for the fleeting time, of the American people. I have appeared only that you might see me, and I you, and I am not sure but I have had the best of the sight. Again thanking you, fellow citizens, I bid you all farewell."

Received Congratulations.

"Mr. Lincoln received congratulations from a number of citizens, and then stepped into the elegant car prepared for him by the Hudson River Railroad Company. The splendid new locomotive, 'Union,' gave a whistle, and the train started. Mr. Lincoln stood on the rear platform with D. T. Vail, and bowed until the train was out of sight.

"The arrangements for the reception were very fine, and elicited a favorable remark from Mr. Lincoln. Pickpockets were abundant in the crowd, but they did not make much. Several ladies fainted and had to be carried out. The balcony was filled with spectators at fifty cents per head, and the police had no little difficulty in keeping men and boys from the tops of the cars."

Pate House, Where Lincoln Stood Trial, Now Restored

By LUCILLE GERBER
(Courier Special Writer)

CANNELTON, Ind. (Special) — The old Pate House, four miles east of Lewisport, Ky., where Abraham Lincoln was tried and acquitted in 1827 for operating a ferry in Kentucky without a license, has recently been restored.

Eli S. Gregory who owns the home and farm surrounding it, has recently completed the job of restoring the historic place built in 1822 of logs. He found the structure in a good state of preservation, he said, and used new timber in only a few instances.

WHEN LINCOLN was seventeen years old he operated a ferry over Anderson Creek at Troy, Ind., which at that time was a navigable stream. One day, while contemplating a flatboat he was building, two men in a horse-drawn carriage came dashing down the road. They asked Lincoln to scull them out to midstream of the Ohio River to board a steam boat.

Loading their baggage in his boat he helped them aboard. They forgot to pay him and he reminded them whereupon each man threw into the bottom of his boat a silver half dollar.

This is the incident that brought him into the court of Squire Pate for hardly had he reached the Indiana bank than he was set upon by John and Lin Dill who had a license to operate a ferry over the Ohio.

THE DILLS filed a warrant against Lincoln in Squire Samuel Pate's Court at Lewisport. The Dills thought they had a real case against Lincoln because Squire Pate owned the land from which the Dill brothers operated the ferry on the Kentucky side, and that Squire Pate would undoubtedly deal harshly with the youth.

Lincoln did not deny he had taken the passengers out in the

Ohio, but he maintained he had not taken them all the way across the river.

At the conclusion of evidence it is said Squire Pate got down his "dog-eared" copy of Littell's Laws of Kentucky and found the law provided punishment for any-

one who for reward "set any person over any river or creek where there are public ferries."

SQUIRE PATE dismissed the case for it was plain that Lincoln had not "set" anyone "over" or across the Ohio but had only gone to midstream.

Much of this story is told in a document encased in glass at Lincoln Ferry Roadside Park on the Spencer County side of Anderson Creek at Troy.

It was written by the late Ross Lockridge Sr., history teacher at Indiana University, who often brought his students via busses to the site for a history recital. In 1939 he was instrumental in having the Indiana State Highway Department establish the roadside park visited by hundreds of people in the summer months. There are picnic facilities and a view of the Ohio as well as of Anderson Creek.

Now occupying the old Pate House is Gregory's daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Larry Hayden.

Years later, after Lincoln became President, he told the story of the early incident to Secretary Seward and other members of his cabinet.

"I could scarcely believe my eyes as I picked up the money," he said. "It was the most important incident of my life" and then he told them that "to think that I, a poor boy, had earned a dollar in less than a day — I became more hopeful and confident after that."



Pate House Restored: This old house, four miles east of Lewisport, Ky., recently restored by Eli S. Gregory, is the house where Squire Samuel Pate acquitted Abraham Lincoln who was charged with operating a ferry without a license. Gregory, left, great-grandson of Squire Pate, stands in front of the old home with a neighbor, Russell Lawson.

